

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for managing a field asset comprising:

at least one processor;

5 memory operably coupled to the at least one processor;

a communications interface operably coupled to the processor and the memory;

10 the communications interface operable to communicate with a controller board operably coupled to the field asset;

a program of instructions storable in the memory and executable in the processor;

15 the program of instructions operable to correct at least one field asset error condition and further operable to package uncorrected error conditions for transmission;

a wireless network interface operably coupled to the memory and the processor; and

20 the wireless network interface operable to transmit the packaged error conditions to a network operations center via a wireless network.

25 2. The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising the program of instructions operable to poll the controller board to determine whether an error condition exists on the field asset.

3. The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising:

the wireless network interface operable to receive commands from the network operations center transmitted via the wireless network; and

5 the commands operable to correct at least one uncorrected error condition on the field asset.

4. The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising the field asset including hardware operable to perform ice bagging and vending operations.

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5. The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising:

the wireless network interface operable to receive at least one command from an Internet-enabled remote device; and

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the at least one command operable to correct at least one uncorrected error condition existing on the field asset.

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6. The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising:

at least one sensor operably coupled to the memory and the processor; and

the at least one sensor operable to evaluate at least one characteristic of the field asset.

7. A system for the Internet enabled management of a field asset comprising:

a field asset having a controller board operable to detect at least one error condition present on the field asset;

a monitoring device operably coupled to the field asset;

the monitoring device including a processor, memory operably coupled to the processor, a communications interface operably coupled to the processor, the memory and the controller board and a wireless network interface operably coupled to the memory and the processor;

the communications interface operable to communicate with the field asset and the wireless network interface operable to communicate with a wireless network;

a network operations center operably coupled to the wireless network; and

the network operations center operable to receive alerts indicative of error conditions existing on the field asset from the monitoring device and the network operations center further operable to display at least one entry indicative of an error condition existing on the field asset on an Internet-enabled remote device.

8. The system of Claim 7 further comprising the network operations center operable to communicate one or more control functions to the field asset in response to selection by a user from the remote device.